(e) At present there is no such proposal with this Ministry under the existing National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents.

New Broadcast Bill

1699. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring forward a new Broadcasting Bill; if so, the details in this regard and the object sought to be achieved;

(b) whether the Bill seeks to do away with the monopolies, impose ceiling on TV network and similar restrictions on cable and other service providers; and

(c) whether these provisions seeks to control the contents of the programming and its anti-monopoly measures could also entail restructuring of their share holding patterns?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill in consultation with Ministries concerned. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter. It is therefore, difficult to give final views or to give a time frame on the proposal.

Launching of international news channel

†1700. SHRIMATI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch country's International New Channel on the lines of B.B.C. and C.N.N.;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be launched; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government is exploring various

† Originat notice of the question was received in Hindi.

options of projecting India's economic, social and cultural development to the rest of the world, including the feasibility of an International Television Channel. Since the deliberations are in a nascent stage, no action plan or time frame can be indicated.

Installation of high power transmitter at Chirgaon

1701. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2772 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government would consider installing a high power transmitter at a suitable height to cover people in Ransar valley;

(b) whether the present VLPT installed at Chirgaon is not an Government land and a heavy rent is being paid for it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being contemplated to replace this VLPT with a HPT at a higher altitude to remove the grievances of the people of Ransar valley and also to bare the expenditure being incurred as rent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no scheme to upgrade the existing very low power TV transmitter at Chirgaon to an HPT. Doordarshan have provided multi-channel TV coverage through its free-to-air DTH service 'DD Direct Plus' in the entire country (except A&N Islands). DTH signals can be received anywhere in the country (including Shimla district) with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

VLPT at Chirgaon has been set up on a private land and an amount of Rs. 1,000/-p.m. is being paid towards rent of this land.

Impact of DD-Indian Channel in the Middle East

1702. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in the Middle East by Doordarshan to study the impact of DD-India channel there;

(b) if so, the result of the study; and

(c) the step taken to telecast audience based quality programmes for foreign viewers?